

REMARKS

This application was originally filed on 7 August 2001 with thirty six claims, six of which were written in independent form. Claims 14-26 have been allowed. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 14-16, 19-22, 24, 25, 27-29, and 33-36 were amended on 8 December 2004. Claims 1 and 28 have been amended, and Claims 2 and 27 canceled herein.

Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,311,360 to Bloom *et al.* ("Bloom"). Claims 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,434,291 to Kessler *et al.* ("Kessler") in view of Bloom. Claims 2 and 28-36 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner stated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of prior Claim 2 and should be deemed allowable for that reason. Claims 3-8 depend from Claim 1 and should be deemed allowable for that reason and on their own merits.

Claim 28 has been re-written to include the limitations of prior Claim 27 and should be deemed allowable for that reason. Claims 29-36 depend from Claim 28 and should be deemed allowable for that reason and on their own merits.

In view of the amendments and the remarks presented herewith, it is believed that the claims currently in the application accord with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, it is urged that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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